

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4206

To establish a grant program to improve the quality and expand the availability of child care services, and of family support services, for families with children less than 3 years of age.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2000

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FROST, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. OLVER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. SLAUGHTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a grant program to improve the quality and expand the availability of child care services, and of family support services, for families with children less than 3 years of age.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Early Learning and
5 Opportunity State Grants Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The first 3 years of life are a critical period
4 of brain development, intellectual growth, and emo-
5 tional, social, affective, and moral development, that
6 help determine the health and productivity of a child
7 in later life.

8 (2) Scientific research shows that how individ-
9 uals function from preschool through adolescence
10 and adulthood hinges to a significant extent on the
11 experiences children have in their first 3 years of
12 life.

13 (3) One in 3 victims of physical abuse is a baby
14 less than 1 year of age.

15 (4) In 1993 the National Educational Goals
16 Panel reported that nearly half of infants in the
17 United States do not have what they need to grow
18 and thrive.

19 (5) High-quality care from a parent or other
20 adult is necessary to facilitate growth and develop-
21 ment.

22 (6) More than 50 percent of mothers with chil-
23 dren less than 1 year of age are working outside the
24 home.

1 (7) Five million children under age 3 are in the
2 care of other adults while their parents work outside
3 the home.

4 (8) Parents of very young children have few
5 child care service options. Many cannot afford to
6 stay home with their children, or to pay for safe,
7 high-quality developmental child care services.

8 (9) Statewide and multistate studies have found
9 that less than 20 percent of child care services for
10 very young children is of good quality; nearly 50
11 percent is of such substandard quality that it ad-
12 versely affects such children's development and may
13 put their health and safety at risk.

14 (10) In 1998 the average child care worker
15 earned \$14,820, making it difficult to recruit and
16 retain qualified caregivers for infants and toddlers.

17 (11) Families with children less than 3 years of
18 age are the single largest group living in poverty.
19 Twenty-five percent of such children, 3,000,000 chil-
20 dren, are living below the poverty line, are at greater
21 risk for malnutrition, poor health, and maltreat-
22 ment, and are less likely to receive the care they
23 need from parents or other child care service pro-
24 viders to grow and develop normally.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are—

3 (1) to improve the quality, and to increase the
4 availability, of child care services for children less
5 than 3 years of age,

6 (2) to improve the affordability of child care
7 services available to such children,

8 (3) to improve the quality, and to increase the
9 availability, of services to assist families to nurture
10 such children, and

11 (4) to improve the coordination and effective-
12 ness of existing programs that provide such services
13 to such children and their families.

14 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR SERVICES.**

15 (a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Secretary
16 of Health and Human Services may make grants, on a
17 competitive basis, to eligible States to improve the quality,
18 and to increase the availability, of child care services for
19 very young children and of support services for the fami-
20 lies of such children.

21 (b) **PRIORITY.**—For the purpose of making grants
22 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to
23 eligible States to the extent that such State, as dem-
24 onstrated in the application for a grant under such
25 subsection—

1 (1) will minimize the administrative costs to be
2 incurred to carry out the plan contained in such ap-
3 plication,

4 (2) has coordinated the activities described in
5 the plan contained in such application, with pro-
6 viders of child care services for children between 3
7 and 6 years of age, and with providers of family sup-
8 port services for families of such children, located in
9 the State,

10 (3) has taken substantial legislative or executive
11 action to reduce the duplication of, and barriers to
12 providing, such services, and

13 (4) during the fiscal year for which such grant
14 is received, will reimburse such providers for such
15 services at rates that reflect—

16 (A) the higher costs incurred by such pro-
17 viders who are accredited by national associa-
18 tion that provides accreditation for providers of
19 the respective types of such services and that is
20 recognized by the Secretary, and

21 (B) the higher costs incurred by such pro-
22 viders to provide child care services to children
23 who are very young children.

1 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.**

2 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 4, a
3 State shall submit to the Secretary an application that
4 satisfies the following requirements:

5 (1) Such application is prepared by the State
6 after consultation with providers of child care serv-
7 ices for very young children, and with providers of
8 family support services for families of such children,
9 located in the State.

10 (2) Such application contains a plan that de-
11 scribes how the State will expend such grant to do
12 1 or more of the following:

13 (A) To improve quality of child care serv-
14 ices.

15 (B) To improve licensing standards appli-
16 cable to providers of child care services for very
17 young children in the State by specifying mat-
18 ters that apply to providing child care services,
19 such as child-to-staff ratios, group size, staff
20 preparation and qualifications, ongoing staff
21 training, health and safety, and linkages to par-
22 ents and community services.

23 (C) To improve enforcement of licensing
24 standards applicable to providers of child care
25 services for care for very young children in the
26 State.

1 (D) To improve compensation for care-
2 givers of such child care services.

3 (E) To support ongoing and more ad-
4 vanced training for such caregivers (including
5 training to provide child care services for chil-
6 dren with special needs) and to create incen-
7 tives for individuals to obtain, and child care
8 centers to employ individuals who have ob-
9 tained, more advanced training in providing
10 child care services.

11 (F) To improve accessibility to and quality
12 of child care services for very young children,
13 including improving the quality of, and expand-
14 ing the availability of, resource and referral
15 services and transportation services for families
16 with very young children.

17 (G) To expand the supply and quality of
18 infant care, including creating and supporting
19 family child care networks, recruiting family
20 child care providers, and expanding slots for in-
21 fants and toddlers in other child care settings.

22 (H) To support child care networks that
23 can provide on-going support for child care pro-
24 viders of infants and toddlers.

1 (I) To provide resource and referral serv-
2 ices to enable child care providers to hire infant
3 and toddler specialists.

4 (J) To improve affordability of child care
5 services for very young children.

6 (K) To improve and expand support serv-
7 ices to families with very young children.

8 (L) To improve coordination of existing
9 Federal and State programs that provide sup-
10 port services for families with very young chil-
11 dren.

12 (3) Such application shall contain assurances
13 that—

14 (i) not more than 70 percent of the cost of
15 carrying out the plan contained in such applica-
16 tion will be paid with such grant together with
17 any other available Federal funds,

18 (ii) such grant will be used to supplement,
19 not supplant, non-Federal funds otherwise
20 available to provide child care services for very
21 young children and support services for the
22 families of such children,

23 (iii) the State will expend in cash or in
24 kind, from State resources (including private
25 contributions and excluding resources available

1 to local governmental entities) an amount not
2 less than 30 percent of the amount of such
3 grant, and

4 (iv) such grant will be administered by the
5 lead agency that is designated by the State
6 under section 658D of the Child Care and De-
7 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
8 9858b).

9 (4) Such application shall contain such other
10 information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
11 quire by rule.

12 **SEC. 6. MODEL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES OF**
13 **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

14 The Secretary shall—

15 (1) by adapting the requirements in effect
16 under section 1792(a) of title 10, United States
17 Code, develop a voluntary model training program
18 applicable to individuals who are employed as care-
19 givers for infants and toddlers by providers of child
20 care services,

21 (2) make available to providers of child care
22 services and Head Start agencies the model training
23 code developed under paragraph (1), and

24 (3) provide to such agencies and such providers
25 technical assistance to implement such program.

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) CAREGIVER.—The term “caregiver” means
4 an individual who provides a service directly to a
5 child on a person-to-person basis.

6 (2) FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term
7 “family support services” means community-based
8 activities designed to promote parental competencies
9 and behaviors that will increase the ability of fami-
10 lies to successfully nurture their children.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

13 (4) VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.—The term “very
14 young children” means children who are less than 3
15 years of age.

16 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$750,000,000
19 for fiscal year 2002, \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal
20 years 2003, 2004, and 2005.

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